

REMARKS

Claims 121-140 are pending.

The rejections under 35 USC §112, first and second paragraphs, have been rendered moot by cancellation of claims 1-120, and the addition of new claims 121-140.

The outstanding Office Action set forth various art rejections of claims 98-120, which have been rendered moot by cancellation of these claims in favor of new claims 121-140.

It is respectfully submitted that the new claims distinguish over the cited references.

New claim 121 is directed to method for fabricating semiconductor devices which includes a first separating step of cutting a substrate on which semiconductor elements having protruding electrodes are formed so that the semiconductor elements are separated from each other, a resin sealing step of arranging the separated semiconductor elements on a base member and sealing a sealing resin so that a resin layer is formed, a protruding electrode exposing step of exposing at least ends of the protruding electrodes from the resin layer, and a second separating step, conducted after said protruding electrode exposing step, of cutting the resin layer together with the base member in positions between adjacent semiconductor elements, so that the semiconductor elements to which the resin layer is formed are separated from each other.

New claim 121 corresponds to claim 29 of application Serial No. 09/635,124, which had been indicated as allowable.

New claims 122-126 correspond to claims 65-69 of Serial No. 09/635,124, which were also indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

New claims 127-131 and 133-139 are directed to a semiconductor device. Favorable consideration of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Claims 132 and 140 are directed to method for fabricating a semiconductor device. Favorable consideration of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the applicants' undersigned attorney.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



Stephen G. Adrian

Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 32,878

Attorney Docket No. 980233B
1725 K Street, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: (202) 659-2930
Fax: (202) 887-0357